

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 OPR-02 SY-07 RSR-01 /108 W
----- 030419

R 270926 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8471

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2442

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: POSTSCRIPT ON RAWALPINDI INCIDENT

REF: ISLAMABAD 2386, LAHORE 300

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRO- GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN BLAME
NAP FOR VIOLENCE AT MARCH 23 OPPOSITION MEETING
IN RAWALPINDI. OTHERS BLAME INCIDENT ON GOP, WHICH
APPARENTLY IMPORTED PPP WORKERS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS
TO BREAK UP MEETING. INCIDENT LIKELY FURTHER TO
ALARM MIDDLE CLASS ELEMENTS ALREADY UNEASY OVER
BHUTTO REGIME' S STRONG- ARM TACTICS. END SUMMARY

1. SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF FRACAS AT MARCH 23
UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) PUBLIC MEETING IN
RAWALPINDI HAVE EMERGED. BOTH PUNJAB GOVERNOR
MUSTAFA KHAR AND NWFP GOVERNOR KHATTAK MADE IMPROMPTU
RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESSES MARCH 24 REGARDING
INCIDENT. THRUST OF KHAR' S REMARKS WAS IDENTICAL TO
HIS COMMENTS AT LAHORE AIRPORT (REPORTED LAHORE REFTEL)
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I. E., THAT NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) SOLELY TO BLAME FOR INCIDENT WHICH GOP HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID. SPEECH PARALLELED GOP PRESS NOTE ISSUED SAME DAY GIVING DETAILED, ALTHOUGH UNCONVINCING, DESCRIPTION OF HOW NAP FORCES DELIBERATELY PERCIPITATED INCIDENT BY WANTON KILLING OF LOCAL CITIZEN. GOVERNOR KHATTAK TOOK LESS PARTICIAN LINE, EXPRESSING DISTRESS OVER INC, LAM THANH NGUYEN' S HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VETERANS' ASSOCIATION, AND LE TRONG QUAT' S CATHOLIC- BASED PEOPLE' S NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FORCE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT TRINH QUOC KHANH, LEADER OF THE HOA HAO- BASED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WILL JOIN. THE ALLIANCE IS A CONFEDERATION, UNDER LEADERSHIP OF A PRESIDUM OF THE CHIEFS OF THE CONSTITUENT PARTIES, WITH A ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP. IT WILL HAVE ITS HEADQUARTERS AT CVT HEADQUARTERS IN CENTRAL SAIGON.

THIS IS THE SECOND GROUP, AFTER THE CATHOLIC- BASED FREEDOM PARTY, TO ORGANIZE SERIOUSLY TO QUALIFY UNDER DL 060, WHICH GOES INTO EFFECT MAR 27 (SEE BELOW). THE ORGANIZERS OF THE ALLIANCE CLAIM THAT IF THE GVN REALLY WANTS A NATIONALIST OPPOSITION, THEY CAN QUALIFY UNDER THE CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS OF DL 060. AT FIRST GLANCE, THEIR CLAIM IS A CREDIBLE ##

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THEY HAVE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR MAKING A GO OF THE ALLIANCE. ARGUING AGAINST SUCCESS IS THE LONG RECORD OF FRONTS AND ALLIANCES THAT HAVE ABORTED HERE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

E. DECREE LAW 060 GOES INTO EFFECT; THREE PARTIES SURVIVE OFFICIAL VIET- NAM PRESS REPORTED MAR 25 THAT ONLY THREE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL OPERATE IN THE RVN AFTER MAR 27, THE DEADLINE FOR VALIDATION OF PARTIES FIXED IN DL 060 ON POLITICAL PARTIES. THE THREE PARTIES ARE: THE ADMINISTRATION' S CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMOCRACY PARTY; THE CATHOLIC- BASED FREEDOM PARTY (NHAN XA, GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE, AND UPPER HOUSE CHAIRMAN HUYEN' S LILY GROUP); AND THE NEWLY- FORMED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (ABOVE).

SAIGON TELEVISION REPORTED MAR 26 THAT THE GVN HAD FORMALLY RECOGNIZED THE DEMOCRACY PARTY. THE PARTY IS NOW SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAIGON ON MAR 28

AND ITS INAUGURAL CEREMONY MAR 29.

THE GVN HAS ALSO ACCORDED THE FREEDOM PARTY PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION, I. E. PERMISSION TO OPERATE PENDING FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS OF THE DECREE. (THE PARTY MUST MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS WITHIN 12 MONTHS. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE HAS NOTIFIED MOI OF ITS FORMATION AND REQUESTED PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION, THUS MEETING THE MAR 27 DEADLINE. PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE ALLIANCE SHOULD BE ROUTINELY FORTHCOMING IN TWO TO FOUR WEEKS, FROM WHICH TIME IT WILL HAVE 12 MONTHS TO MEET DL 060' S CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.

THERE HAD BEEN HOPES IN SOME CIRCLES THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WOULD RELENT AND AGREE TO CHANGES IN DL 060. HE REPORTEDLY LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO OPPOSITION LEADERS' CRITICISM OF THE DECREE AND TO THEIR REQUESTS TO MODIFY IT WHEN HE MET THEM TO DISCUSS FORMING THE PEOPLE' S FRONT FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL SELF- DETERMINATION LAST MONTH. FORMATION OF TWO NON- ADMINISTRATION PARTIES BEFORE THE MAR 27 DEADLINE, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE CONFIRMED THE ADMINISTRATION' S BELIEF THAT THE DECREE ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE (TO FORCE CONSOLIDATION) AND THEREFORE WARRANTS NO LAST MINUTE CHANGES.

NON- COMPLYING PARTIES CAN NOW EXPECT MOI TO ORDER THEIR DISSOLUTION. THE WEAK BUT VOCAL SOUTHERN VNQDD BEAT MOI TO THE PUNCH: AT A MEETING MAR 20, THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS AND " CEASE ALL ACTIVITY". THEY CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS IN PROTEST AGAINST THE " ANTI- DEMOCRATIC, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND ILLEGAL" DECREE, SINCE THEY CLAIMED THEY COULD COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECREE. THE CLAIM IS PATENTLY ABSURD; FEW WILL TAKE THEIR EFFORT TO CALL THE DISSOLUTION A PROTEST AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A THINLY- DISGUISED EFFORT TO AVOID THE EMBARRASSMENT OF A FORCED CLOSURE. OTHER PARTIES, LIKE THE RDV, CLAIM THEY WILL KEEP ON AS USUAL AND OBLIGE THE GVN TO FORCE THEIR CLOSURE.

F. PRESIDENT THIEU SPEAKS ON FARMERS DAY
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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